

**Derrylyn Gorski
First Selectman
Town of Bethany
Public Hearing Testimony
Transportation Committee
Monday, February 29, 2016, 10:30 A.M.**

HB-5055 - An Act Decreasing Wait Times at the Department Of Motor Vehicles

I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to eliminating the ban on registering motor vehicles and vessels if an individual is delinquent on their property taxes.

Bethany, a town of 5,500 people, is the only rural town in New Haven County. Our lakes and reservoirs supply water for the City of New Haven. However, because we have no municipal water or sewers our opportunities for economic development are limited placing the tax burden on our residents.

When one is accustomed to dealing in millions of dollars, tens of thousands may seem insignificant. In small towns like Bethany, every penny counts.

HB-5055 eliminates a very effective tool in collecting back taxes and will place a burden on property taxpayers who do pay their taxes on time. I can sympathize with the problem at DMV; however, this problem was not created by the towns and reducing revenue to the towns is not a fair solution.

The Town of Bethany is currently owed \$126,600.00 in delinquent motor vehicle taxes. Many of these taxpayers only pay their taxes when their registration is due. What will be their incentive when they are no longer required to pay their taxes in order to register their vehicle?

Please vote NO on HB-5055